

4 August 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: ERA Division and Branch Chiefs

SUBJECT: Economic Plans and Production of Communist  
China, 1958 and 1959-1962; NIE 13-59

1. The present schedule of NIE's calls for branch contributions to NIE 13-59 to be delivered to A/F by 15 February 1959.

2. The changes that have occurred and are occurring in Communist China render this NIE one of the most difficult and most important of any to which ORR has contributed up to this time. These changes include: (a) the claimed breakthrough of the Chinese Communists in greatly increasing their winter grain and early summer crop production; (b) the very considerable technological advances which the Chinese Communists are apparently making; (c) their reallocation of resources to more labor-intensive projects in both agriculture and industry in their 1958 program; (d) the apparent intention of the regime to raise its sights drastically for 1962 production goals; and (e) the vigorous campaign of the regime to expand its international trade and economic relations.

3. In view of these considerations, it is requested that all division and branch chiefs meet at 1100 hours 5 August 1958 in Room 1125 M Building to discuss (a) the criteria that may be used in judging the feasibility of the Chinese Communist economic plans and performance thereunder and (b) the possible need for scheduling new coordinated branch or areawide research projects in preparation for the NIE 13-59.

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Acting Chief, Economic Research Area

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